

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-13. (canceled).

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A method for coding a sequence of digitized images with a plurality of macro blocks in error-prone networks, said method comprising :

coding the macro blocks to determine accessible reference images;

coding a section of the macro blocks of the images in a section of the image in a first intra-coding mode depending on predetermined criteria;

coding another section of the macro blocks of the image in a second intra-coding mode, or in an inter-coding mode, wherein movement vectors of the macro blocks are determined and wherein the number of accessible reference images selects a specified number of macro blocks; and

limiting the selection from the number of accessible reference images in such a way that referencing takes place from image areas that were not subjected to the first intra-coding mode at a later stage.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the predetermined criteria for carrying out the coding in a first intra-coding mode are error robustness criteria with respect to an incorrect transmission of coded images.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the first intra-coding mode is executed at regular time intervals.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the first intra-coding mode is executed at random time intervals.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the step of limiting the selection from the number of accessible reference images further comprises the steps of:

- optimizing the detected movement vectors for each inter-coding mode and for each accessible reference image;
- determining a rate distortion movement compensation value for each of the optimized vectors; and
- selecting the detected movement vectors in accordance with a determined rate distortion movement compensation value.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the step of limiting the selection from the number of accessible reference images further comprises the step of creating a limited number of inter-coding mode combinations and reference images, wherein combinations that were coded in a later image in a first intra-coding mode are removed.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the step of limiting the selection from the number of accessible reference images further comprises the step of forming a best combination based on the rate distortion.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the rate distortion is determined by processing an error rate to be expected when the coded images are transmitted.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein to determine the rate distortion criteria, the distortion of the pixel

values contains the total of the quadratic differences between the pixel values before coding and the correspondingly decoded pixel values.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the distortion is estimated to determine the rate distortion criteria.